Increase in transportation of goods

†1323. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the transportation of goods (freight) by trains has increased by 30 per cent after 2006-07 budget;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the industries/sectors affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. The originating freight loading upto January in the current year was 593.67 million tonnes as against 542.81 million tonnes achieved during the corresponding period of last year *i.e.* an increase of 16% in terms of earning.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Palace on Wheels

1324. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways plans a cross-country Palace on Wheels train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this train would traverse the heritage hubs of Buddhist and other sites in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise. However, a fully air-conditioned train with on-board/ off-board catering and house keeping arrangements, road transport by Air

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi